

Claims

1-5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously Presented) A method of operating a screen to transition between display of a television signal and display of auxiliary data from an auxiliary data network that delivers data apart from the television signal, comprising:

displaying a television signal;

in response to link data conveyed with the television signal, displaying with the displayed television signal an icon, said icon indicating the availability of associated auxiliary data from the auxiliary data network, wherein the link data is conveyed with the television signal M different times during a program, but the displaying the icon occurs only N times, and wherein N is less than M, whereby a viewer is not unduly disrupted by repeated display of the icon during the program;

responsive to a signal from the viewer during the displaying the icon, displaying a graphical control panel operable by the viewer to cause display of the auxiliary data associated with the icon, wherein the graphical control panel is displayed before displaying of the auxiliary data;

responsive to a second signal from the viewer during the displaying the control panel, ending the displaying the control panel and retrieving, from the auxiliary data network, the auxiliary data associated with the icon; and

displaying a progress indicator indicating progress of the retrieval of the auxiliary data.

7-12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6 which includes:
displaying in the graphical control panel a title of the auxiliary data associated with the icon.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13 which includes displaying in the graphical control panel at least one graphical control that can be activated by the viewer to indicate the viewer's desire to view the auxiliary data.

16-24. (Canceled)

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6 further comprising:
compiling a log, the log including data identifying the auxiliary data;
in response to a third signal from the viewer, recalling at least part of the log to the screen for display;
permitting the viewer to select auxiliary data from the log for display; and
displaying the selected auxiliary data.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25 in which the log additionally stores data identifying the television signal.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6 wherein the control panel includes plural graphical controls including a first graphical control for causing display of the auxiliary data and a second graphical control for ending the displaying the control panel.

29-30. (Canceled)

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6 wherein the icon and the graphical control panel are translucent.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31 wherein the displaying the icon and the displaying the graphical control panel comprise changing the luminance of the displayed television_signal.

33. (Canceled)

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6 wherein N equals one.

35-40. (Canceled)

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6 wherein displaying the icon only N times comprises skipping displaying the icon based at least in part upon a result of comparing the link data conveyed with the television signal M different times.

42. (Canceled)

43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6 further comprising:
adding identifying data for the auxiliary data into a favorites folder.

44-101. (Canceled)

102. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6 wherein the television signal has a format selected from the group consisting of NTSC, SECAM, PAL, and HDTV, and wherein the television signal is received over a transport mechanism selected from the group consisting of broadcast, cable, and satellite.

103-104. (Canceled)